

MAY.

The monthly meeting of this Society was held on May 13, the President His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton K.C.B., in the chair. There was a good attendance of Fellows, and also a number of lady visitors.

THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The SECRETARY read a telegram from Baron Von Mueller, suggesting a deputation from the Society to the Government in aid of the fund now being raised for the proposed Antarctic Expedition.

Mr. James BARNARD said that he was rather in favour of viewing this as an Australasian and Imperial question, and that the expense generally should be shared between Australia and the Imperial Government. It seemed, however, that there was no hope of that being obtained, and, therefore, he moved—"That it be a recommendation from the Society to the Council to wait on the Premier to see if the Government would be disposed to assist in this matter."

Sir LAMBERT DOBSON seconded.

The PRESIDENT said that the position of the matter was this. He received a telegram from Baron Von Mueller, which he read at last meeting, to the effect that New South Wales had put £2,000 on its estimates, and Queensland £1,000, and asking whether Tasmania would contribute £500. He had referred the telegram to Ministers, but had not heard from them. He took some blame to himself in the matter, because he had not applied to Ministers, but now that it had been proposed and seconded that a deputation wait on the Premier he thought that would be the best way to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY.

Mr. MORTON, as secretary, called attention to the fact that two members of the Society, Mr. James Barnard and Hon. Dr. Agnew, celebrated this month their jubilee as members of the Society. In 1841 both of these gentlemen were admitted as members, Mr. Barnard having been admitted on the motion of Mr. Bedford, seconded by Sir John Franklin. At that meeting there were present Rev. Dr. Lillie, and Captains Ross and Crozier, who had just returned from a cruise to the Antarctic Ocean. He believed that this Society, one of the oldest in Australia, was the only one that could boast of having two members who had been so long in membership, and still able to take their part as active working members. He saw from the records that Mr. Barnard had been very seldom absent from the meeting of the Society or of the Council. The only time there was a lapse in attendance was during Mr. Barnard's visit to England. He thought it his duty as secretary to bring those interesting facts under notice, and he placed before the Society the original manuscript of the election of Mr. Barnard, with the signature of Mr. Henslow, who was then private secretary to Sir John Franklin, and acted as honorary secretary to the Royal Society.

Sir LAMBERT DOBSON expressed pleasure at hearing the interesting facts just stated, and said that all joined in congratulating Mr. Barnard and Dr. Agnew, and in wishing that they might yet be spared many years to take an active part in the work of the Society.

Mr. BARNARD said he was quite taken by surprise by this recognition of his membership, and regretted that Dr. Agnew was not present on the occasion. He felt honoured by the reference made to himself. He had a feeling of shortcoming in that he had not throughout the long period referred to done more for the Society than he had done. Of course it should be remembered that during forty years he had the conduct of a very onerous department in the Government service, and had very little leisure to devote to scientific matters. He felt thankful for having been spared till this time and able to look back during all that vista of years. He remembered that the first paper read before the Society was an admirable one by the Rev. Dr. Lillie, and that Rev. Mr. Ewing prepared the first catalogue of Tasmanian birds, a work which has since been taken up and expanded very considerably by modern contributions from members of the Society. He did not, however, think he should inflict a speech upon them on the occasion, but would only again express his great appreciation of the feelings that prompted this reference to himself.

APPLE SCAB.

Mr. A. MORTON drew attention to a fungus affecting the apple. During the last few weeks several apples had been sent him. On examination he found they were attacked by a fungus, and on submitting them to Dr. N. A. Cobb, of the Department of Agriculture of Sydney, he reported that the fungus was the ordinary apple scab, *Fusicladium dendriticum*, and that it might be almost prevented, at a slight cost, by spraying the trees once in every two or three weeks during the spring and summer with the mixture known as "Ammonio-carbonate of copper." Dissolve 2lb. of copper sulphate (bluestone) in hot water. Dissolve 2½lb. sodium carbonate in another vessel of water. Mix the two together, and before using add 1½ pints of ammonia, and then dilute to 30 gallons with water.

The Secretary read the following correspondence:—

151, Macquarie-street, May 12th, 1891.

"Dear Mr. Morton,—I regret I shall be unable to be at the Royal Society's meeting to-night. Would you mind recording the existence in Tasmania of the two following plants:—

Lobelia rhombifolia, found in October, 1890, on the road from St. Helens to Constable Creek by Wm. Fitzgerald. The plant was sent to me, and I forwarded it to Baron Von Mueller, and I enclose his reply. Unfortunately I have no specimens.

Orthoceras strictum, found in December, 1890, by Mr. Geo. Hinsby near George's Bay. I recognised the plant as *O. strictum*, and when Baron Von Müller was here he confirmed it. I leave the dried specimen for your examination.

Kindly let me have the letter and specimen again, as I have to return the former, and wish to keep the latter.

Yours faithfully,
L. RODWAY."

"Let me congratulate you, dear Mr. Fitzgerald, for your discovery of a plant, new as regards the records of the Tasmanian flora. It is the *Lobelia rhombifolia* of De Viese, originally found by Drummond in West Australia; in 1848 traced by me into South Australia, and since then found in some few places of Victoria. The Tasmanian locality will be recorded in my work under your honoured name. Where this plant occurs perhaps you may find other rare plants yet. As you seem to take an interest in the indigenous plants of your beautiful island, I would particularly remark that the floating and submerged plants there require still more attention there than any others, even as far as the small water lentils. It would be well in each instance if the specimens

were pressed and dried before they are sent off, as otherwise they suffer in transit. May I advise you to send to Mr. Alex. Morton, Secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania, a note regarding the discovery of the Lobelia in your Island, and to dry specimens for being submitted to the next meeting in Hobart.

Respectfully yours,

FERD. VON MUELLER."

CALCULATING MACHINE.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON gave a lucid and practical demonstration of the method of working a new calculating machine introduced into the Statistician's Department to facilitate the work of that department in calculations. The machine is called the "Arithmometer." In the absence of the author Mr. Johnston read a paper, prepared by Mr. F. Jacobs, A.I.A., entitled "Notes on the Arithmometer as an aid to actuarial work."

The Secretary, in the absence of Mr. A. B. Biggs, read a paper prepared by that gentleman entitled "The Possibilities of the Telescope."

Mr. A. Montgomery, M.A., Government Geologist; Mr. W. F. Ward, Government Analyst, and Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., and Mr. R. M. Johnston, replied at some length to the paper of Mr. Powers, read at the last meeting, entitled "Notes on the Mt. Lyell District, Tasmania.

On the motion of His EXCELLENCY, the customary vote of thanks was passed to those who had contributed papers and remarks, and the proceedings terminated.
